

PAROWAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2015
LIBRARY LOUNGE, 16 SOUTH MAIN, 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Donald G. Landes, Councilman Alan Adams, Troy Houston, Ben Johnson, Steve Thayer (via telephone), Steve Weston, City Manager Shayne Scott, City Recorder Callie Bassett

MEMBERS ABSENT: City Attorney Justin Wayment

PUBLIC PRESENT: Don and Linda Lowder, Greg and Vickie Hicks, Cindy Kirkham, Sharon and William Downey, Dennis Gaede, Amy Johnson, Denise Orton, Jay and Cassi Orton, John and Cindy Shelton, Katti Lister, Craig Rowley, Heather Shurtleff, Chuck and Dottie Stade, Korey and Mary Ann Kemp, Jet Smith, Kristen Robinson, James Ipson, Karriann Raddon, Ken and Michelle Orton, John Robertson, Meliss Houston, Tim Beery (Cedar City Daily News), Justice Walker, Jacob Dalton, Alex Sorhando

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Landes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPENING CEREMONIES/THOUGHT/PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – STEVE WESTON: Councilman Weston offered the invocation. He then led the Council and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY CONFLICTS OR PERSONAL INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA WHICH NEEDS TO BE DECLARED?

ACTION MEETING

4. INTERVIEW AND SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT OF CITY COUNCIL

MEMBER: Mayor Landes commended each candidate for being at the meeting. He said it is a tremendous tribute to Parowan City that there are 10 people that have stepped forward and are willing to give of their time and their service. He thinks it is very symbolic of this community. He urged the candidates, regardless of tonight's outcome, to run for office. The declaration of candidacy period is June 1-8, 2015 and he encouraged the candidates to run.

Mayor Landes explained that there are 10 candidates. Each candidate will draw a number and that will be the order they come to the microphone and give their presentations. He invited those candidates not comfortable sitting in the room while others give their presentations to feel free to adjourn to the library. He then said when all the presentations are completed, the Council will vote by ballot. Councilman Weston will not vote, nor will the Mayor. Mayor Landes explained that Councilman Thayer was present via telephone. Mayor Landes asked Mr. Scott to explain why we have to do the voting this way and said we are following the letter of the law. He also explained that we have talked to legal council and they have assured us that everything we are doing is appropriate.

Mr. Scott began by pointing out that item number three on the agenda had been overlooked. Mayor Landes started to ask if anybody had any conflicts or personal interest in any matter on the agenda which needed to be declared, but teased that “You’ve got to be kidding me. Does anybody have any conflicts? Right? No. Hearing none, we’re moving on.” Councilman Houston raised his hand to indicate he had a conflict. Mayor Landes acknowledged Councilman Houston’s hand saying “oh, he does” while adding that everyone here has a relative – this is Parowan. Councilman Houston spoke up and said he had a conflict. (Councilman Houston is Mr. Jay Orton’s uncle by marriage. Mr. Orton is a Council Candidate who will be presenting this evening.) Mayor Landes said he understood he had a conflict but Councilman Houston was not able to elaborate. Mayor Landes went on and asked the other Council members if they are related to anyone in the audience. Councilman Adams and Councilman Johnson both said they were sure they are but did not name anyone specifically. Councilman Thayer said Mrs. Mary Ann Kemp is his wife’s cousin.

Mr. Scott said that a lot of people have had questions about why this is done in an open meeting. He explained that Utah State Code (20A-1-510) dictates how midterm vacancies in municipal offices are filled. It has been very clear that this must be done in an open meeting. It talks about how notice is given and how we accept candidate applications. Mr. Scott said that the most important thing the candidates need to know is when all of the candidates are done speaking the Mayor will ask for a ballot to be passed out to the City Council. They will then mark their choice. They will do that without the other Council members knowing who they are voting for, however the Mayor will read for the record who each Council member voted for.

After the first round, if there is a majority (3 of the 4) then we have a new council member. If we don’t have majority, the people that were voted for move on to the next round and everyone else would be eliminated. Once the second vote takes place, if there is a majority, we have a council member. If not, we go to drawing lots.

The candidates drew numbers for their interview order. They presented themselves in the following order:

Mr. John Shelton – Mr. Shelton chose to live in Parowan and expressed his love for this City. He said he would enjoy the opportunity to work for and share his talents with the Parowan. He feels his background would bring a unique perspective to helping to manage the town. He would like to see Parowan grow in a measured manner. He feels the decisions made on behalf of the City have been rational and in the best interest of the town.

Mrs. Vickie Hicks – Mrs. Hicks said she loves Parowan and cares a lot about what happens here. She said she knows things can’t stay status quo and would like to see small to moderate growth. She feels it is important to bring in businesses and jobs, and would like to see the infrastructure grow at same rate as the City. Mrs. Hicks said she is a hard worker, and knows her way around financial statements. She feels that Parowan is operating very well.

Mrs. Dottie Stade – Mrs. Stade has attended city council meetings regularly for many years. She doesn’t want to see us lose what we have, but feels we need controlled growth. She would like

to see light industry come to town. She also feels the City needs to look at lowering the debt. She is also concerned about lowering the debt.

Mrs. Sharon Downey – Mrs. Downey thanked Councilman Weston and his wife Rene for the work they have done in town. Mrs. Downey said she moved here from Las Vegas because Parowan is a quaint town. She wants families to stay here and feels it is not affordable for them to live here and commute. She said we need to bring jobs here. Mrs. Downey says we need to improve our infrastructure, especially the roads. She said we need to work within the budgets we have and build up a rainy day fund. She would like to see improved communication in the community and would like to see a marquee in front of the new city hall.

Mr. Jay Orton – Mr. Orton thanked the council for the opportunity to be here. He said his vision of Parowan is maintaining controlled sustainable growth, continuing to value our history through families, beliefs, and celebrations of our past, while still adapting and modernizing. He places a high priority on our quality of life. Financially he would also like to see a rainy day fund for unexpected projects. He feels the council and management are taking things in the right direction. Mr. Orton said he takes pride in understanding agenda items and does his best to research and prepare for meetings so he can provide educated responses. He believes resident deserve quality representation.

Mr. Korey Kemp – Mr. Kemp's vision of Parowan is to maintain a small town atmosphere and our pioneer heritage. He said we do need some growth. He would like to see the interchanges grow up so people can come off freeway and then come on into town. He would like to see people feel safe and to feel welcome here. Mr. Kemp said he feels he would be an asset to the Council and the City. He has been self employed most of his life and has a background in running a successful business. He would like to help find new and better ways to help solve the problem of taking care of the debt.

Mr. Dennis Gaede – Mr. Gaede told Councilman Weston he is going to miss him. He would like Parowan to keep small town atmosphere. He said we do need some careful growth in the right way so we don't lose the atmosphere we have now. He would like to see the City's debt brought down and improvements to streets. He loved being on the Council previously and feels that the made some good decisions while he served. He said he was very dedicated and only missed one Council meeting in four years. Mr. Gaede feels the council tries very hard not to spend too much money. He said he knows we need new city hall but feels the City shouldn't have been so extravagant and could have gotten by with less.

Ms. Karrienne Raddon – Ms. Raddon said she came to Parowan 9 years ago. She drove down Main Street and knew this was a beautiful place to live. She believes if you live in a community you need to be involved in the community. She wants Parowan to maintain its small town feel. She would like to see better communication with the residents. She would like to support local businesses. Ms. Raddon commented that the traditions in Parowan are phenomenal and she has been able to help plan and communicate these. She would like to help make Parowan attractive to new comers and have the necessary services available. As a teacher at PHS, she teaches her student to be involved in the community. She wants to practice what she preaches. She feels she

would be an asset and could bring a needed bridge between the City Council and the youth of this community.

Mr. Craig Rowley – Mr. Rowley said Parowan is the greatest place on earth to grow up, to raise a family, and to instill values into a family. He would like to see that our facilities are good and taken care off. He thinks we should make improvements as often as possible. Mr. Rowley is concerned about the direction Parowan is headed. He doesn't want Parowan to be a retirement community. He wants Parowan to be viable and to grow. He thinks any tax incentives that can be offered to local businesses are good. He is concerned about the numbers in the schools diminishing and feels people need to be able to make a living here. Keeping things at a low cost so people have an incentive to come here will help with growth.

Mr. James Ipson – Mr. Ipson came to Parowan 7 years ago because this is a good place to raise a family. He feels Parowan is challenged with sustainability and for Parowan to continue to be the Mother Town of Southern Utah, we need a pattern of sustainability. Mr. Ipson said he feels it is important that we preserve our water resource and perhaps, in the future, we can use the land to grow food for people here. We need to continue be able to generate power here. We have seen a great slow down in housing. He feels the decisions made by the City Council now will have a long term affect on Parowan's future. Mr. Ipson said he supports the things that Steve Weston has been involved with – shade tree committee, theater board. He said he was an English major and has been a student of permaculture. He feels he can recognize the needs of the community and find ways to fulfill them.

After the ten candidates presented themselves, ballots were passed to the Council members. Each Councilman cast their vote and then passed their ballot to the Mayor. Councilman Thayer gave his vote to Mr. Scott via telephone who then recorded his vote on a ballot and handed it to the Mayor.

Mayor Landes commented that he would be very comfortable with any one of the ten candidates. He said we have a great community. Obviously with the kinds of people who are coming forward and who are willing to serve, it testifies of the kind of community in which we live.

Mayor Landes read the Council members' votes out loud for the record:

Roll Call of Votes:

Councilman Troy Houston voted for Jay Orton.
Councilman Alan Adams voted for Vickie Hicks.
Councilman Ben Johnson voted for Jay Orton.
Councilman Steve Thayer voted for Korey Kemp.

Because there was not a majority vote, the Council voted a second time in the same manner as stated above. Mayor Landes read the votes out loud for the record.

Roll Call of Votes:

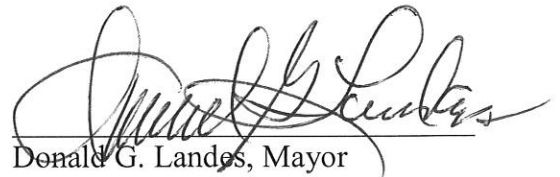
Councilman Troy Houston voted for Jay Orton.
Councilman Alan Adams voted for Vickie Hicks.

Councilman Ben Johnson voted for Jay Orton.
Councilman Steve Thayer voted for Vickie Hicks.

Still not reaching a majority vote, Mr. Jay Orton's and Mrs. Vickie Hicks' names were placed in a box. Councilman Steve Weston drew a name from the box. The name drawn was Mr. Jay Orton. Mr. Orton will serve as a Council member for the six remaining months of Councilman Weston's term.

Mayor Landes congratulated Mr. Orton and again thanked all of the candidates for their interest and participation.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Houston moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion with all Council members voting in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Donald G. Landes, Mayor



Callie Bassett, City Recorder